

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Glassboro, Gloucester County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-376

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Historic American Building Survey
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ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS

Addendum to
St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
southeast corner of Main and
Focer Streets
Glassboro
Gloucester County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-376

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ADDED

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HABS No. NJ-376

Addendum to
St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
Glassboro
Gloucester County
New Jersey

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Location: Southeast corner of Main and Focer Streets,
Glassboro, Gloucester County, New Jersey.

Significance: Attributed to noted architect, John Notman, this church is a fine example of the Gothic Revival parish church.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Cornerstone laid 18 April 1846.
2. Architect: Attributed to John Notman (1810-1865). This attribution is based on a statement by Episcopal Bishop George Washington Doane, who wrote that the church would be "stone after a plan by Mr. Notman." (Doane, Episcopal Address)
3. Alterations and additions: Based on differences in type of stonework, it is believed that the apse and sacristy at the eastern end of the building are additions.

B. Historical Context:

Replacing an earlier building, St. Thomas Episcopal Church was begun on 18 April 1846, when Bishop George Washington Doane laid the cornerstone. The presumed architect, John Notman, was an innovative designer, who worked largely in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Notman was particularly well known for his work in the Italianate and Gothic Revival styles.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The building is a fine example of an unpretentious Gothic Revival parish church.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The church has a generally rectangular shape, measuring 72'10" x 24'8". The building is one story tall

plus 3-story square entrance tower on the west. To the east is a polygonal apse.

2. Walls: Constructed of uncoursed brown ironstone with dressed brownstone trim. The masonry joints were originally red mortar, but have been repointed.
3. Structural system: Load bearing masonry walls, supported by buttresses. These buttresses rise in 2 stages with set backs trimmed in dressed brownstone.
4. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: A drop-arched doorway opens into the base of the tower.
 - b. Windows: Windows lighting the tower, nave, and apse are lancet windows with stained glass and tracery. On the third story belfry of the tower, the windows are unglazed. All windows have brownstone sills, while the windows of the apse also have brownstone arches.
5. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with slate shingles. The apse roof is partially gabled with roof planes rising from the polygonal end to converge at the ridge line.
 - b. Towers: Buttressed, 3-story entrance tower on west end. Belfry in third story visually separated from lower portion by a belt course. At the top of this tower is a crenelated parapet. At the eastern end of the building, at the end of the nave's roof ridge, is a small bell cote.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The rectangular nave (40' x 20'-8"), is flanked by a square entry vestibule on the west and a polygonal apse chancel on the east.
2. Flooring: Narrow oak boards.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: The lower portions of the walls are sheathed in wainscot of beaded boards. Above this, the walls are plastered and are scored to resemble ashlar. In the nave, the ceiling is plaster with exposed timber framing. Arches spring upward from wall pendants to intersect the exposed ridgepole and rafters and purlins. Between these larger arches are smaller applied Gothic arches, which create a tracery-like pattern. The chancel also has exposed timbers, but the ceiling is made up of beaded boards.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The church is located on the southeast corner of Main and Focer Streets.
2. Historic landscape design: A graveyard extends east and south of the church. Leading from the church driveway to the churchyard is a lich gate, believed to be original to the grounds.
3. Outbuildings: To the east of the church is a parish house.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

National Register of Historic Places Inventory Form, prepared by William B. Bassett, 1971.

2. Secondary and published sources:

George Washington Doane, Diocese of New Jersey: Episcopal Address to the Sixty-Third Annual Convention, in Trinity Church, Newark, May, 27, 1846, by the Right Rev. George Washington Doane, D.D., LL. D., Bishop of the Diocese (Burlington, New Jersey, 1846), p. 20.

One Hundredth Anniversary, St. Thomas' Episcopal Church (Glassboro, New Jersey, 1946), [p. 9].

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Historic American Buildings
Survey
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